

Tempe Republic

U.S. Rep Harry Mitchell presented the Purple Heart and other military medals and awards posthumously to Frank Robert Nystrom, who died in combat during World War II.

Marilyn Munkachy of Tempe, Nystrom's sister and the family's representative, was given the medals Wednesday at the Tempe Transit Center.

Seaman 1st Class Nystrom served in World War II on the USS Albacore, a submarine that was sunk by a mine off the coast of northern Japan and declared lost in late autumn of 1944. Nystrom was originally from Bessemer, Mich., and would have been 85 years old this October.

His younger sister learned that she could apply for the honor after attending a memorial in Oregon last fall for those on the lost submarine.

"I visited with a lot of retired Navy men who didn't receive their medals," Munkachy said.

As the nation prepares to celebrate Independence Day, Mitchell noted it's fitting to honor those who fought to defend the country. "Seaman Nystrom served his country honorably and valiantly, and I am privileged to present his medals to his family," he said.

In addition to the Purple Heart, Munkachy received Nystrom's World War II Victory Medal, American Campaign Medal, Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal with three bronze stars, Presidential Unit Citation and Combat Action Ribbon.